

Duque, Claudia

From: Schoenbrot, Natalie
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 1:25 PM
To: Mersky, Craig
Cc: Colpitts, Jennifer
Subject: FW: President Dmitry Medvedev on climate change and Copenhagen

FYI – For FARA

From: Stearns, Matt [mailto:Matt.Stearns@ketchum.com]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2009 9:17 AM
To: Stearns, Matt
Subject: President Dmitry Medvedev on climate change and Copenhagen

Please find below the transcript from President Medvedev's blog post on climate change and the efforts in Copenhagen, posted Monday morning. A link to the blog also is below:

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Today I want to talk about the global problem of climate change on our planet. There are already existing arrangements in most countries to work together in this area. Incidentally, some of them have been around for quite a while, namely the Kyoto Protocol.

Russia believes that such cooperation is vital. The major economies of the world, and hence the largest greenhouse gas emitters, such as the United States, China, India, Russia, Brazil, and others, must simultaneously make the necessary commitments and strictly observe them. I would particularly like to emphasise that these must be simultaneous commitments and commitments that we all abide by together. Trying to do this on our own will be fruitless and pointless. This is a question of existence itself, and I want to reiterate that we must all be in this together.

I also think that we need to use a differentiated approach in determining the commitments of developed and developing countries: we are all in different situations. These commitments must not conflict with economic opportunities or, most importantly, the development priorities of each country. It's obvious that the young industrialised economies will be a greater drain on energy resources than the post-industrial powers that have already developed their economies.

I want to emphasise that our country is already a world leader in emissions reduction. Our role in improving the global environmental situation is also linked to the role of our forests. Our contribution should be taken into account by the international community. However, we are ready to set ourselves a new challenge.

What is it? It is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020 taking 1990 as the base year. This is a very substantial reduction. So between 1990 and 2020, Russia will reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions by more than 30 billion tonnes. This is a very significant contribution to the world's joint effort.

We can achieve this by increasing energy and environmental efficiency in our economy. In effect this will be the result of the modernisation that we have already devised: the gradual introduction of energy-saving technologies and the development of renewable energy.

What do we plan to do? We plan to increase the energy efficiency of our economy by 40 percent by 2020. This is one of the first orders that I signed as President.

Secondly, we have already adopted a law on energy saving and improving the energy efficiency of our economy. In a separate initiative, work has already started on changing the regulatory framework in the area of energy efficiency, including the development of an appropriate set of technical regulations.

As a result, our share in this respect will be better; in particular the share of low-power industries in the energy balance will be better.

We have decided on a step-by-step increase in the share of renewables in the country's energy sphere. In particular, the share of nuclear energy will be increased by 25 percent by 2030.

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Copenhagen is currently hosting an international UN conference on climate change. And I plan to take part in it, to promote the adoption of decisions that will help coordinate the efforts of all countries – that's right, the efforts of all countries. This is critically important because the quality of life of future generations on this planet depends on the decisions that we make.

<http://eng.kremlin.ru/sdocs/vappears.shtml>

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Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 1:25 PM
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Subject: FW: President Dmitry Medvedev on modernisation and climate change

FYI – For FARA

From: Levinson, Lauren
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 10:02 AM
To: Levinson, Lauren
Cc: Levinson, Lauren
Subject: President Dmitry Medvedev on modernisation and climate change

Please find below opening remarks by President Medvedev from his meeting on Tuesday with senior management of the Russian Academy of Sciences and representatives of the scientific community. A link to the remarks is also below:

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Good afternoon, colleagues,

I'm glad we have this chance to get together: in fact, I've been wanting to for some time now. Mr Osipov [President of Russia Academy of Sciences] and I happened to meet at the airport and he said: "It would be nice if you could come for tea," – well, here I am. It's so cold out there that I'm hoping there will be tea, and that we can have a heart to heart talk.

I would like to note that the scientific session of the General Assembly of our Academy opened today, a session at which some of you have already spoken. The subject is a very interesting one – unfortunately I wasn't able to attend – and the session was devoted to fundamental and applied problems of the brain. Well, I think that there are many different issues we could discuss, in fact any issue that is of interest to the Academy.

Of course, I would be remiss if I neglected to point out that we are already very much in contact with the Academy in our work with the Commission for Modernisation and Technological Development of Russia's Economy, and of course we stay in touch within the Council for Science, Technology and Education. And it is encouraging that within the Academy there are specialised commissions and councils for the coordination of research on the five technological priorities that I have identified. Adjustments to the programme of fundamental scientific research must be carried out with the same end in view. Incidentally, Mr Osipov has given me a very interesting report, which shows exactly what our opportunities are and where the most interesting, the most advanced research should now be carried out concerning these five priorities.

In my recent Address [to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation], I talked about how we have to raise the country to a fundamentally new stage of development, to a higher stage of social development, and that modernisation is the crucial lever for doing it. In effect, what we're talking about is the modernisation of our entire existence. But when it comes to technological improvements, we have to focus first on the use of innovation. This is an age-old subject for our country, because we have been talking about it for something like the last fifteen years, and – let's be frank – the progress that we have made is not exactly encouraging.

We have tried a lot of different recipes, worked with different organisational and legal formulas, come up with new laws and discussed the subject in various formats. But again, to speak frankly, to this point we have not achieved anything significant in terms of innovation in the normal, everyday sense. We are not laying the foundations for an innovative economy, despite the fact that of course we have done a lot of wonderful research and come up with brilliant ideas. Unfortunately there is still a gap between research conducted in this area and its commercialisation, between its conception and application. This is precisely what I think needs to be the subject of discussion.

Another issue that is probably now on everyone's minds, something ultra-topical and ultra-high profile, in the sense that everyone is talking about it, is the question of climate change. In a couple of days I will be going to Copenhagen where, as you know, there is a conference [of the United Nations on Climate Change]. To this point it has not performed miracles, nothing definite has been achieved, but there is a debate on limiting greenhouse gas emissions and a new agreement in this area.

I don't know if there will be an agreement on a so-called binding treaty, that is, a treaty that will set out our obligations to reduce emissions, but in any case a set of principles and apparently some sort of road map in this area will be agreed. Obviously this is a subject that, no matter how you look at it, must be of concern to everyone, and needs to be based on scientific evidence and objective predictions. There are a lot of such predictions – we have no shortage in this area – and they are extremely varied. Indeed, some of them reflect diametrically opposed points of view. I think it would also be interesting, at least for me, to discuss these issues on the eve of the conference, bearing in mind the obligations that, in effect, we are prepared to undertake, and bearing in mind the economic prospects that await us. Because of course the choice between limiting greenhouse gas emissions and development must involve the introduction of modern technologies of energy-efficient economy. And this constitutes an absolute priority for us, regardless of what we decide about ongoing climate change: whether we regard it as potentially catastrophic or believe that nothing new is happening and that we are witnessing normal cyclical fluctuations that will not affect the situation on the planet.

Another subject that I thought would be appropriate to discuss in this encounter is the role of youth in science. At this meeting there are also a number of young scientists (I don't mean employees of the Presidential Executive Office, I mean those who really are involved in science). I'd be happy to give them the floor, if they wish to speak.

Let me remind you that in the current year, despite the crisis and the serious difficulties that have hit our economy, we have managed to do something positive: we have increased presidential grants for young master's and doctoral students four-folds - from 150 and 250 thousand rubles respectively to 600 thousand and one million rubles. Obviously, this is just a drop in the bucket, but it is nonetheless important to maintain this trend, so that the waves don't push us in the opposite direction, back to the 1990s when everything threatened to come to a standstill.

Two months from now, on the Day of Russian Science, the Russian President's prize for talented young scientists will be given out for the second time. This is also one of the symbolic things that we all agree should definitely continue.

I know that in order to discuss the development of science and support for young scientists, we need to talk about the social sphere, about the economy of science. Let's talk about that too. Of course probably our most acute problem is housing. It's an acute problem not just for researchers but for other young professionals as well. But in light of the fact that young people in science is always a rare thing, we need to think about a system or an integrated solution to this problem.

We have discussed this topic with a large number of colleagues present here. And when I worked in the Cabinet, we initiated a number of housing programmes. Incidentally, we actually managed to do something in this regard, something that worked, but of course I can't pretend that we solved the problem in any sort of large-scale way. There are various mechanisms. Let's discuss them, including the use of the possibilities that exist at the Academy for housing construction. Loans that are now quite widely available can be used for this as well. As you know, I think that we have the potential to resolve this problem completely. Let me illustrate how it might be resolved with an example.

As little as ten years ago, it seemed that we were unable to resolve the problem of providing housing for our soldiers and officers – it was a national disgrace. But we are now in the process of resolving it and we're going to see it through to the end. Without question by next year all officers will be provided with housing. Of course, this required a big effort on the part of the government, additional federal funds and so on, but it does mean that if there is a willingness to deal with this subject and to bring together different sources, we can resolve the most difficult, long-standing problems. So I propose that we discuss social issues for young scholars and scientists as a whole. Of course our conversation need not be restricted to this agenda.

http://eng.kremlin.ru/speeches/2009/12/15/2242_type84779_223379.shtml

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